

Message Text

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ACTION AID-20

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 PC-15 USIA-15 IO-13 DODE-00

AGR-20 ACDA-19 INT-08 COME-00 SS-15 DRC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 /173 W
----- 012857

R 051555Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7794

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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AFDROUGHT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, SWEL, XA

SUBJ: MALI DROUGHT ISSUES FOR WILLIAMS

REF: STATE 172532

A. GOM REQUESTS FOR DROUGHT ASSISTANCE

1. C-130'S: REQUEST MADE TO UNDERSECRETARY CURTIS TARR
DURING HIS VISIT MALI JULY 1-3. DOUKARA CLAIMS TWO C-130'S
WOULD ENABLE MALI CLOSE SOME MILITARY OUTPOSTS AND ALSO COULD
BE USED HAUL FOOD SIXTH REGION YEARS AHEAD. STATE'S 153974
TURNED DOWN REQUEST AND DOUKARA WAS INFORMED BY CHARGE D'AFFAIRES.
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MINISTER DEFENSE STILL ANXIOUS VISIT U.S. THIS SEPTEMBER DISCUSS

C-130 DEAL FURTHER.

2. TRUCKS: MINISTER DEFENSE ASKED FOR 50 HEAVY DUTY ARMY TRUCKS FOR GRAIN DISTRIBUTION SIXTH REGION. HE HAS NEVER SUPPLIED DETAILED LOGISTICAL JUSTIFICATION BEYOND GENERALITIES ABOUT DISPERSED POPULATION SIXTH REGION AND REDUCED NUMBER TRUCKS SERVICEABLE SIXTH REGION. BAMAKO'S 2554 RECOMMENDED 8 TRUCKS, 4 FOR TIMBUKTU AND 4 FOR GAO BUT WASHINGTON'S 169574 RECOMMENDED LEASING. WHILE DOUKARA TOLD CHARGE THAT NO SUITABLE TRUCKS AVAILABLE WEST AFRICA FOR LEASING, ABIDJAN'S 5969 REVEALED THAT MALI HAD LEASED 45 TWENTY-FIVE-TON TRUCKS AND WAS NEGOTIATING FOR LEASING OF 150 ADDITIONAL TEN-TON TRUCKS. EMBASSY CONCLUDED THAT MALI HAS MET IMMEDIATE PROBLEM FOR ADDITIONAL TRUCKS THROUGH LEASING AND RECOMMENDED AGAINST PURSUING TRUCK LEASING FURTHER. EMBASSY AWARE THAT WEST GERMANS SUPPLIED 10 TRUCKS AND THAT MALI INTENDED BUY ABOUT 36 BERLIET TRUCKS SO IT APPEARS GOM HAS TAKEN SUFFICIENT MEASURES PROVIDE ADDITIONAL TRUCKS AT LEAST FOR EMERGENCY FOOD DISTRIBUTION NEXT FEW MONTHS.

3. TRUCKS NEGOTIATIONS U.S.: MALI AMBASSADOR WASHINGTON MADE URGENT AND FIRM VERBAL AGREEMENT WITH CHRYSLER LAST SPRING FOR PURCHASE 36 TRUCKS. CHRYSLER INCURRED US\$78,000 ASSEMBLY COSTS ONLY TO HAVE MALI BACK OUT ON VERBAL AGREEMENT USING EXPLANATION THAT GOM UNDER IMPRESSION TRUCKS COULD BE BOUGHT WITH DROUGHT RELIEF FUNDS. CHRYSLER HAS WRITTEN TO PRESIDENT TRAORE SEEKING MALI AGREEMENT TO BUY TRUCKS FROM CHRYSLER IN FUTURE BECAUSE OF PREVIOUS BROKEN COMMITMENT.

4. AMBULANCES: GOM HAS ALSO ASKED FOR 30 AMBULANCES. UNICEF HAS MADE AVAILABLE 10 LANDROVERS SIXTH REGION FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES. EMBASSY DOES NOT BELIEVE GOM COULD EFFECTIVELY USE THIS NUMBER VEHICLES. GOM FULLY OCCUPIED ORGANIZING RELIEF FOR STATIONARY NOMAD CAMPS TIMBUKTU AND GAO AND UNLIKELY IT COULD CARRY OUT AMBULANCE PATROLS IN DESERT WITH ADEQUATE PERSONNEL AND MAINTENANCE BACKUP.

B. GOM ATTITUDE ON DROUGHT COORDINATION: MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR TOLD EMBASSY THAT HE PREFERS BILATERAL APPROACH DROUGHT RELIEF AND DOUBTS THAT PIC, UN COORDINATION, OR OTHER INTERNATIONAL FORUMS WILL LEAD TO EFFECTIVE ACTION. HE IS ESPECIALLY CRITICAL FAO FOR BEING LONG ON PROMISES AND SHORT ON RESULTS. EMBASSY CONVINCED THAT GOM WILL RESIST STUBBORNLY ANY ATTEMPT BY DONORS TO DESIGN RECOVERY PROGRAM FOR MALI REGARDLESS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROFESSIONAL CREDENTIALS AND WEALTH VARIOUS DONOR PARTICIPANTS.

C. MALI DROUGHT RESPONSE: DROUGHT COORDINATOR, MIN DEFENSE DOUKARA, IS DYNAMIC, EFFICIENT, HARD-WORKING OFFICIAL WHOSE COORDINATION DROUGHT EFFORTS MALI ESPECIALLY GRAIN AIRLIFTS HAS BEEN SUPERB. HE HAS MADE EXTENSIVE OVERLAND TREKS THROUGHOUT REMOTE DESERT AREAS SIXTH REGION FROM GAO TO TIMBUKTU TO GOUNDAM TO OBSERVE EFFECTS DROUGHT FIRST-HAND. DOUKARA MORE

PROFESSIONAL MILITARY OFFICER THAN POLITICALLY ORIENTED, HAS CONSISTENTLY REQUESTED PLANES, TRUCKS, AMBULANCES, IN RESPONSE EMBASSY'S REQUEST FOR GOM DROUGHT NEEDS. HE CONCERNED THAT HIS MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT HAS INVESTED MOST THEIR TRANSPORT RESOURCES FOR DROUGHT RELIEF AND HE ANXIOUS OBTAIN HELP FROM U.S. TO RE-EQUIP ARMY SINCE ARMY HAS HEAVY CIVIL ACTION RESPONSIBILITY WITH REGARD TO DROUGHT. DOUKARA AND HIS CLOSE MILITARY COLLABORATOR DEPUTY AIRFORCE COMMANDER ALIOU TRAORE HAVE HAD MILITARY TRAINING U.S. AND EXPERIENCE DEALING U.S. MAP TEAMS. THEY IMPRESSED WITH U.S. EQUIPMENT AND KNOW-HOW ESPECIALLY SO AS RESULT OF HIGHLY EFFICIENT GRAIN AIRLIFT CARRIED OUT UNDER DIFFICULT ENVIROMENTAL CONDITIONS. WHILE MILITARY CONCERNS UNDOUBTEDLY INFLUENCE DOUKARA'S SPECIFIC DROUGHT REQUESTS, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MISTAKE DISMISS OUTRIGHT HIS REQUEST THIS REASON SINCE DOUKARA HAS COMMITTED ARMY RESOURCES IN GENERALLY EFFECTIVE MANNER. MAJOR PROBLEM IS GETTING PRECISE JUSTIFICATION FOR NUMBERS TRUCKS AND AMBULANCES THAT HE HAS REQUESTED.

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